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DOCKET NUMBER: 95176562-003002  
PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Lloyd Wolfinbarger, Jr., et al.

§

Serial No.: 10/940,545

§

Group Art Unit.: 3732

Filed: July 23, 2003

§

Examiner: David C. Comstock

For: PLASTICIZED BONE AND SOFT  
TISSUE GRAFTS AND METHODS OF  
MAKING AND USING SAME§  
§  
§  
§

**Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents**  
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**P.O. Box 1450**  
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Sir:

## CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE 37 CFR 1.6

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted  
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*Stephanie A. Wardwell*  
 Signature Stephanie A. Wardwell

STATUS OF APPLICATION

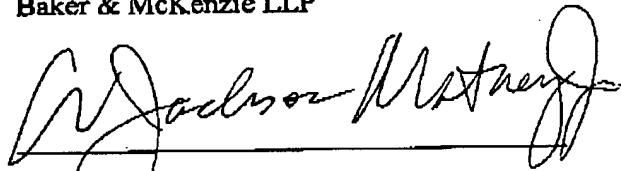
Filed herewith is a transmittal form, a Renewed Notice of Appeal, a Renewed Request for an Oral Hearing, copies of the previously filed Notice, Request and Appeal Brief, and a copy of a Grant by the Office of Petitions to revive the application under 37 C.F.R. §1.137(b).

Applicant believed that the previously filed Notice, Request, and Appeal Brief were submitted in a timely manner. However, the USPTO determined that the appeal documents were untimely submitted due to a deposit account issue, and the application was held abandoned. Applicant filed a petition to revive the inadvertently abandoned application and has received the enclosed grant reviving the application.

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Accordingly, Applicant now resubmits the Appeal Brief (and renewed Notice and Request) without fees, as the fees for these items were paid by debit account with the previous submissions.

Respectfully submitted,  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Applicant: Lloyd Wolfinbarger, Jr.

§

Serial No.: 09/940,545

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Group Art Unit: 3732

Filed: July 23, 2003

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Examiner: David C. Comstock

For: PLASTICIZED BONE AND SOFT TISSUE  
GRAFTS AND METHODS OF MAKING AND  
USING SAME

§

**Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents**  
**Commissioner for Patents**  
**P.O. Box 1450**  
**Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

Sir:

## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 14, 2005.

Signature

**APPELLANT'S BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. §41.37**

Applicant hereby appeals to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences from the last decision of the Examiner. Furthermore, Applicant requests an oral hearing before the Board in the appeal of the above-identified application. A check for the total amount of fees (\$750) for filing of the Appeal Brief (37 C.F.R. 41.20(b)(2)) (\$250) and the Request for Oral Hearing (37 C.F.R. 41.20(b)(3)) (\$500) is enclosed herewith.

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**I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST (37 C.F.R. § 41.37 (C)(1)(i))**

The real party of interest is Lifenet.

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**II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES (37 C.F.R. § 41.37 (C)(ii))**

There are no related appeals known to the Appellant.

The application subject to this appeal (the "Wolfinbarger application") is a division of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/107,459, filed June 30, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,293,970, which issued September 25, 2001.

This application was filed in an attempt to provoke an interference with an issued patent, (the "Osteotech patent"), U.S. Patent No. 6,162,258, which issued December 19, 2000, to Nelson L. Scarborough and Todd M. Boyce for "LYOPHILIZED MONOLITHIC BONE IMPLANT AND METHOD FOR TREATING BONE" from U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/382,331, filed August 25, 1999. The Osteotech patent did not include a claim to an earlier priority than its filing date.

The Osteotech patent application was filed nearly 14 months after the priority date of the Wolfinbarger application. The only pending claims of the Wolfinbarger application, claims 33 and 34, are identical to claims 1 and 33 of the issued Osteotech patent.

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**III. STATUS OF CLAIMS (37 C.F.R. § 41.37 (C)(iii))**

Claims 33 and 34, listed in the Claims Appendix, are pending and presently on appeal. Appellant canceled original claims 1-32, without prejudice or disclaimer, August 29, 2001, in a preliminary amendment. In the same amendment, Appellant added claims 33 and 34. These claims have not been amended during the prosecution of the Wolfinbarger application.

This appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences is from the final rejection of claims 33 and 34 in the Office Action, mailed March 15, 2005 (hereinafter, "the Final Rejection").

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**IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS (37 C.F.R. § 41.37 (C)(1)(iv))**

No amendments were filed subsequent to the Final Rejection.

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PATENT**V. SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER (37 C.F.R. § 41.37 (C)(1)(v))**

The invention relates to a lyophilized monolithic bone implant and a process of treating monolithic bone.

Bone tissue grafts are typically provided in a dehydrated state, and rehydration is necessary before their implantation. Dehydration of bone tissue can be accomplished by air drying or lyophilization (removal of water by freezing and sublimation). Such dehydrated bone grafts are more brittle than normal bone and have a tendency to fracture into numerous small pieces, which can ultimately result in graft failure. The present invention provides a plasticized bone product that exhibits properties that approximate those properties present in normal hydrated bone (e.g., it is not brittle), that can be readily stored in a lyophilized (e.g., freeze-dried) state, and that does not require rehydration prior to clinical implantation. Appellant's Specification, pp. 1 and 3-6.

One aspect of the present invention is directed to methods that include the steps of (1) contacting a monolithic bone (*i.e.*, essentially intact pieces of a femur or tibia, or a whole rib, among others) with at least one biocompatible mechanical strength-conserving agent, (2) subsequently lyophilizing the bone, and (3) packaging the lyophilized bone. A monolithic bone that is contacted with biocompatible mechanical strength-conserving agent as in the present invention is said to be plasticized. Appellant's Specification, pp. 8-9 lines 20-29, page 10 lines 10-21, and Examples 1-10 pp. 22-44.

Biocompatible mechanical strength-conserving agents (plasticizers) of the claimed invention are liquid organic materials that are capable of penetrating and remaining in the bone during its lyophilization, packaging and storage. Examples of types of plasticizers that may be

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used include: polyols, monoglycerides, and various short- and medium-chain free fatty acids and their corresponding monoacylglycerol esters. Specific examples of plasticizers that may be used include: glycerol (glycerin USP), ethylene glycol, and triethylene glycol, among others.

Appellant's Specification, pp. 12-15, and Examples 1-10, pp. 22-44.

Another aspect is directed to a monolithic bone that contains at least one biocompatible mechanical strength-conserving agent that has been lyophilized, packaged, and stored.

Appellant's Specification, pp. 8-10, and Examples 1-10, pp. 22-44.

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**VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL (37 C.F.R. § 41.37  
(C)(1)(vi))**

Claim 33 stands rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Boyce, *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,899,939) ("Boyce") in view of Morse, *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,333,626) ("Morse").

Claim 34 stands rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Boyce.

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## VII. ARGUMENT (37 C.F.R. §41.37 (C)(1)(vii))

The rejections of claim 33 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and claim 34 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102(e) are improper and should be reversed. First, the applied prior art references are analyzed. Second, the relevant legal standards are set forth. Third, the errors associated with the rejection of claims 33 and 34 are discussed.

### A. The Prior Art

Boyce discloses a bone-derived implant that is made up of layers of fully mineralized or partially demineralized cortical bone and, optionally, one or more layers of some other material, such as demineralized bone, graphite, or pyrolytic carbon. Because the layers constituting the implant are assembled into a unitary structure, an implant exhibiting good overall load-supporting properties is provided.

Morse discloses a method for treating bone and making it suitable for transplantation. The method includes contacting bone with a global decontaminating agent, cleaning the bone, and terminally decontaminating the cleaned bone. The invention also provides a method of cleaning bone, which can include contacting the bone with detergent under high pressure washing conditions at elevated temperatures.

### B. The Law Regarding Anticipation and Obviousness

The Federal Circuit has held that anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires that each and every element of the claimed invention be disclosed in a single prior art reference. *See, e.g., In re Spada*, 911 F.2d 705, 708, 15 U.S.P.Q.2d (BNA) 1655, 1657 (Fed. Cir. 1990); *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 U.S.P.Q.2d (BNA) 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

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For anticipation, “[t]here must be no difference between the claimed invention and the reference disclosure, as viewed by a person of ordinary skill in the field of the invention.” *Scripps Clinic & Res. Found. v. Genentech, Inc.*, 927 F.2d 1565, 1576, 18 U.S.P.Q.2d (BNA) 1001, 1010, clarified on reconsideration, 18 U.S.P.Q.2d (BNA) 1896 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

Additionally, to be patentable an invention must be nonobvious over the prior art as set forth in 35 U.S.C. § 103:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The determination of obviousness and, thus, patentability, is based on several underlying factual determinations: “(1) the scope and content of the prior art; (2) the level of ordinary skill in the art; (3) the differences between the claimed invention and the prior art; and (4) the extent of any proffered objective indicia of nonobviousness, sometimes termed secondary considerations.” *Rockwell Int'l Corp. v. United States*, 147 F.3d 1358, 1362, 47 U.S.P.Q.2d 1027, 1029 (Fed. Cir. 1998); accord *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 17, 148 U.S.P.Q. 459 (1966).

In addition to disclosing the claimed subject matter, the prior art must be enabled as it must be able to “teach one of ordinary skill in the art to make or carry out the claimed invention without undue experimentation.” *3M v. Chemique, Inc.*, 303 F.3d 1294, 1306, 64 U.S.P.Q.2d (BNA) 1270, 1278 (Fed. Cir. 2002).

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C. Analysis

The rejection of the pending claims is erroneous for the reasons discussed below. Boyce does not teach the claimed invention recited in claims 33 and 34, even if taken in combination with Morse. Moreover, while Boyce is likely enabling for its own claims it is not enabling for the invention the Examiner has conceived using the roadmap of Wolfinbarger's claims. Given proper consideration, the conclusion that Appellant's claims are unpatentable should be withdrawn.

The Examiner's rejection of claims 33 and 34 comprises three sentences. One is conclusory and the other two are in error. With respect to claim 33, the Examiner concludes:

Boyce et al. disclose the claimed invention except for explicitly disclosing packaging of the implant.

Final Rejection at 3. The remaining portion of the rejection of claim 33 relates to Morse's disclosure of packaging. The entirety of the Examiner's rejection of claim 34 states the following:

Boyce et al. disclose a monolithic bone implant, i.e. whole bone or a portion of a whole bone, 20 that is contacted with a liquid organic agent, i.e. a type of polyethylene glycol, and freeze-dried, i.e. lyophilized (see col. 1, lines 6-17; col. 2, lines 9-15; col. 4, lines 20-24 and 45-46; col. 4, line 53-65; col. 5, lines 21-29; and col. 6, lines 8-13, 45-46 and 51-52. It is noted that providing layers and mineralizing the implant are both optional; therefore, the scope of the disclosure includes mineralized bone that is not provided with the layers (id.).

Final Rejection at 2.

The statement regarding claim 34 is inaccurate on at least two counts. First, Boyce does not teach a bone implant where "providing layers ...[is] optional," or a "mineralized bone that is not provided with the layers." Final Rejection at 2. Boyce teaches two or more layers of bone. See col. 1, lines 11-14 ("[T]his invention relates to a bone-derived implant which is made up of

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two or more layers at least one of which is fully mineralized or partially demineralized cortical bone and, optionally, one or more layers fabricated from some other material."); col. 3, lines 12-16 ("The bone-derived implant of the present invention comprises at least two superimposed layers at least one of the layers being a compression strength-imparting layer derived from nondemineralized cortical bone or cortical bone which has been only partially demineralized."); col. 2, lines 27-30 ("Depending on the thickness of the layers, there can be anywhere from 2 to about 200 layers overall in the bone-derived implant."); col. 4, line 1-15 ("Assembling the superimposed layers into a strong unitary structure ..."); col. 4, lines 20-24 ("In addition to its compression strength-imparting fully mineralized or partially mineralized cortical bone layers, the bone-derived implant of this invention can optionally possess one or more layers formed from one or more other materials."); col. 4, lines 34-44 ("If desired, the compression strength axis of one or more compression strength-imparting layers can be offset relative to the compression strength axis of one or more of the other compression strength-imparting layers in an arrangement much like that of plywood."); Example 1 (layers); Example 2 (layers); Example 3 (layers) (emphasis added throughout). Layers are not "optional"; layers are Boyce's invention.

However, assuming for the sake of argument that Boyce teaches that the provision of layers is optional, Boyce does not teach a bone "that is contacted with a liquid organic agent, i.e. a type of polyethylene glycol, and freeze-dried, i.e. lyophilized." Final Rejection at 2. Such a teaching cannot be found anywhere in Boyce. The Examiner points to Example 1. There no discussion whatsoever in Example 1 regarding "contacting the bone with a mechanical strength-conserving amount of at least one biocompatible mechanical strength-conserving agent, said agent being a liquid organic material which is capable of penetrating and remaining in the bone during its lyophilization, packaging and storage" prior to lyophilition as required by claim 33 nor

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is there a teaching of a "lyophilized monolithic bone implant containing at least one biocompatible mechanical strength-conserving agent, said agent being a liquid organic material which is capable of penetrating and remaining in the bone during its lyophilization" as required by claim 34. Such claimed features are not disclosed.

Moreover, the idea of a "freeze-dried" product is not discussed anywhere else in Boyce. Not in the object of the invention, not in the detailed description, not in the claims. Examples 2 and 3 do not mention it. How can Boyce be said to anticipate claim 34 or disclose the claimed invention of claim 33 (except for explicitly disclosing packaging of the implant)?

In the Response to Arguments section the Examiner continues to make unsupported conclusory statements. Here, he asserts that "In example 1, still referring to 'this invention,' Boyce continues to disclose that the bone, which has already been shown to explicitly include a liquid organic agent such as a polyethylene glycol, can be freeze-dried (see col. 6, lines 45-46 and 50-52)." See Final Rejection at 4. As stated above, Example 1 lacks any disclosure whatsoever of any liquid organic agent. Example 1 (col. 6, lines 46-57) is reproduced below:

#### EXAMPLE 1

A cortical section of bone from the diaphyseal region was cut in the longitudinal direction while continuously wetted with water into approximately 1.5 mm thick layers using a diamond-bladed saw. The layers were then frozen to -70°C. and freeze-dried for 48 hours. The layers were then assembled with cyanoacrylate adhesive and held in a clamp for two hours while the adhesive set. The resulting multilayered unitary structure was cut on a band saw and shaped by grinding and machining with a hand-held motorized shaping tool to provide a shaped bone implant.

There is no disclosure of a liquid organic material before or after the "layers" were freeze-dried. Additionally, the Examiner is slightly overstating Boyce's teachings to state that Boyce "explicitly include[s] a liquid organic agent such as polyethylene glycol" when what Boyce

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actually states is: "fatty acid esters such as laureate, myristate and stearate monoesters of polyethylene glycol". Col. 5 lines 21-23. This is not an "explicit" teaching of "polyethylene glycol."

Moreover, the teaching of Example 1 is to contact bone with water and then freeze-dry it. Water is not a liquid organic material. Water is not a "biocompatible mechanical strength-conserving agent, said agent being a liquid organic material" as required by claims 33 and 34.

The Examiner asserts in the Response to Arguments section that "Boyce does explicitly say that the various substances, including the liquid organic material, 'can be incorporated into the bone-derived implant of *this invention* or any of its constituent layers during *any stage* of the assembly of the implant,' which necessarily includes the stage wherein the bone is freeze-dried (col. 5, lines 24-28)." Final Rejection at 5 (emphasis in Final Rejection). As stated above, there is no disclosure of such an incorporation in Example 1 and for the reasons that follow Boyce is not enabling for such a teaching.

First, the various substances discussed in column 5 require one or more channels, *see* col. 4, line 53 to col. 5, line 32, which are not provided in Examples 1 or 2 or Figure 2. Channels are only provided in relation to Example 3 and Figures 5 and 6. *See* col. 6, lines 26-36 ("Because of the open structure of implant 50 resulting from the pattern of longitudinal channels 52 and transverse channels 53, the implant permits the vascular penetration or host bone ingrowth therein and/or the diffusion of one or more medically/surgical useful substances therefrom.") (emphasis added); col. 7, lines 1-8.

Second, the laundry list of "various substances" (col. 4 line 53 to col. 5 line 32) does not teach subsequent lyophilization of bone treated with fatty acid esters, or any other substances that promote bone growth and healing. In fact, among the substances listed as possible growth

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enhancers, along with the fatty acid esters, are living cells and blood. At least these components of the list would generally not be suitable for lyophilization, because lyophilization can be detrimental to their growth promoting and healing properties.

Moreover, the dehydrated layers produced in Example 1 are assembled with a cyanoacrylate adhesive. It is known that acid compounds hinder or prevent the polymerization of cyanoacrylate esters making cyanoacrylate adhesive ineffective. Substances other than acids can also interfere with the ability of a cyanoacrylate adhesive to bond to surfaces together. Thus, surfaces of the layers of bone fixed to each other with cyanoacrylate adhesive, as in Example 1, would need to be non-acidic to permit the adhesive to work. At least some of the substances for promoting or accelerating bone growth contemplated by Boyce can be acidic (*i.e.*, amino acids, among others). Other substances contemplated by Boyce (*i.e.*, cartilage fragments) can also interfere with securely bonding two bone surfaces together using a cyanoacrylate adhesive. There is no teaching in Boyce contemplating the compatibility of adhesives with specific substances introduced into a bone layer prior to its being fixed to another layer. One cannot infer, based on Example 1, that lyophilization is contemplated for anything other than natural cortical bone.

Therefore, Boyce and Morse taken alone or together do not teach every element of the claimed invention as recited in claims 33 and 34 and are not enabling for the purposes of the Examiner's interpretation.

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For the foregoing reasons, the rejection of claims 33 and 34 should be withdrawn and the application forwarded to the Issue Branch.

Respectfully submitted,

Baker & McKenzie LLP  
A Professional Corporation

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**VIII. CLAIMS APPENDIX (37 C.F.R. §41.37 (C)(1)(viii))**

33. A method for treating monolithic bone intended for implantation to conserve the mechanical strength of the bone during lyophilization and subsequent packaging and maintain such strength during the storage of the bone, the method comprising:

- a) contacting the bone with a mechanical strength-conserving amount of at least one biocompatible mechanical strength-conserving agent, said agent being a liquid organic material which is capable of penetrating and remaining in the bone during its lyophilization, packaging and storage;
- b) lyophilizing the bone containing the mechanical strength-conserving agent; and,
- c) packaging the lyophilized bone.

34. A lyophilized monolithic bone implant containing at least one biocompatible mechanical strength-conserving agent, said agent being a liquid organic material which is capable of penetrating and remaining in the bone during its lyophilization, packaging and storage.

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**IX. EVIDENCE APPENDIX (37 C.F.R. §41.37 (C)(1)(ix))**

No evidence was submitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.130, 1.131, or 1.132 into the record during the prosecution of the Wolfinbarger application.

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**X. RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX (37 C.F.R. §41.37 (C)(1)(x))**

There are no related proceedings known to the Appellant. However, should the present appeal be granted, an interference proceeding with regard to the Osteotech patent is requested.

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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of  
Wolfinbarger, Jr. et al.  
Application No.09/940,545  
Filed: August 29, 2001  
Title: Plasticized Bone and Soft Tissue Grafts  
and Methods of Making and Using Same

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR §1.137(b), filed August 7, 2006.

This above-identified application became abandoned for failure to timely file a response to the final Office Action of March 15, 2005. The final Office Action set a three (3) month shortened statutory period for reply. No timely extensions of time were obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR §1.136(a). This application became abandoned on June 16, 2005. A Notice of Abandonment was mailed on September 21, 2005. A petition under 37 CFR 1.181 was dismissed on July 14, 2006.

The requirements for a grantable petition under 37 CFR §1.137(b) have been met. This petition is hereby Granted.

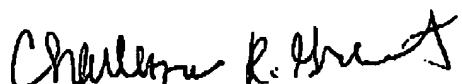
The two-month period for filing an appeal brief (accompanied by the fee required by 37 CFR 1.17(c)), runs from the date of this decision.

The application will be forwarded to Technology Center 3700 for further processing of the previously filed Notice of Appeal and Appeal Brief.

Application No. 09/940,545

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Telephone inquiries concerning this matter should be directed to the undersigned at  
(571) 272-3215.



Charlema R. Grant  
Petitions Attorney  
Office of Petitions